



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 8 – The Christian Worker
By Pastor Bill Alderson – 06/19/2022

Titus 2:9-10

⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

[BACKGROUND]

We are coming to our 8th week in Titus so let's review again why we are studying this epistle of Paul:

Titus 2:11-12 ESV

[11] For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, [12] **training us to renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

The Gospel **SAVES, TRAINS, and FUELS** us to **LIVE** on the Great Commission!

What is the **great commission**? (**Matt 28:18-20**; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:21; and Acts 1:8)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to **observe** all that I have commanded you.

As Jody said reiterated last week, the command is to make disciples, of all nations, baptizing, showing one's acknowledgement of being conquered, of dying to self. Then these converts are to observe (τηρέω (*tēreō*). vb. **to keep; to guard, watch, protect**¹) all the things that Jesus had commanded the disciples, that is the GOSPLE. To keep/guard/protect a thing is not only to adhere to it yourself but to combat those that would seek to change it, to alter it, to deconstruct it, so one of the things a Christian does is **seek to combat heresy**. The piece that is not in this part of scripture is the how? **How are we to teach people to guard/observe the Gospel?**

¹ Gabrielson, T. A. (2014). [Obedience](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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So that leads us to today's subject, which is how we glorify God through our work.

- As we study the Bible, and particularly the New Testament, we see a theme that recurs over and over, which is the Christian's willingness to submit to various types of authority.
- In today's society, submission of any type is seen as oppressive, after all, we're to live our best life now, right?
- Christian, it's way too easy for us to get caught up in this attitude that – which will inevitably bring us into open defiance of the authority of God.
- But we must remind ourselves that Grace trains us to *participate in society*, not *assimilate into it*.
- So to that point, let's look at today's verses from Titus:
- **Titus 2:9-10**
- ⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.
- It's important that we take a moment to look at the word that Paul used here, which the ESV translates into "Bondservant," but in the original Greek was *Doulos*.

Doulos:

Original Word: δοῦλος

Phonetic Spelling: (doo'-los)

Translations (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance):

Bondman, Servant, Slave

Metaphorically:

One who gives himself up wholly to another's will



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- **John MacArthur – SLAVE “Doulos”**

MacArthur explains that the Greek word 'doulos' has not been accurately translated in many (or rather, most) Bible versions. 'Doulos' is usually translated as 'servant'. But MacArthur points out that 'doulos' actually means 'slave'. Passages like "well done, good and faithful servant" (Mat 25:23) and, "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ..." (Tit 1:1) should actually translated, "well done thou good and faithful slave." and "Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ..."

As MacArthur says,

"We have been bought with a price. We belong to Christ. We are His own possession."

- As a reminder, Paul's letter is a Counter-Cultural Gospel for Cretans. Back in Titus 1:12, you may remember that Paul stated One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." So a bondservant in Crete often worked for a dirty, gluttonous, despicable person.
- So Paul is speaking to the Christians of Crete here, a people who were subjected to ridicule and often violent persecution—the kind of activity that can incite within us **the worst possible responses**, including hatred, anger, and resentment.
- But throughout Titus, Paul urges his fellow believers to behave in an honorable manner **at all times** before the watching world. And why?
- Well, the ultimate question we have to ask ourselves is this:
 - Am I a slave to **my SIN** or am I **a slave to CHRIST**?
- Now, **to make sure we don't miss the point**, in today's passage Paul reinforces the idea that **we are able to serve God in every station in life**.
- While Christians are free in Christ, we aren't to use our liberty as a license for sin. So on the one hand we're free, on the other hand we remain indentured servants.
 - **We're bondservants to God.**
 - **We're slaves of Jesus Christ.**



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- So, even if the rest of the world is running on the track of anti-authority and anti-submissiveness, we are not allowed to join in.
- We're called to be "well-pleasing," to maintain order.
- So to dig deeper into this, I have three key points I want to discuss as we look at the concept of being a **Doulos for Jesus**:
 1. The Christian Worker Submits
 2. The Christian Worker is well-pleasing
 3. The Christian Worker Points to Jesus

1. The Christian Worker Submits

○ **Titus 2:9-10**

⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything;

- Your relationship with Christ should lead you to be the best employee or employer on the job. After all, Jesus is our ultimate HR representative.

○ **Colossians 3:22-25**

- ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,^[1] not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

- If the goal in our works is to just appease those we work for, if our goal is a pat on the back, **we're going to live a disappointed life.**
- If our goal is to serve God in all things, **then life becomes fulfilling and purposeful.** In 1 Thessalonians 4:3, we read, **"For this is the will of God, your sanctification."**



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- Understanding how to discern God's will as it relates to our work means we need to see our work **as one of the primary areas in our life which we can pursue our sanctification.**
- So in looking for a vocation that suits us, we are to be guided by the principles of God's **revealed Will** while paying attention to the **internal and external call of God.** We should also seek to understand our gifts and where we can best use them.
- Now it is important to note here that Paul **does not say** we **can never change** the status or calling we held when God called us.
- In 1 Corinthians 7:21, in fact, Paul tells bondservants that **if they are able to gain their freedom,** they should do so.
- His point **is not** that change is impossible **but that we should strive for contentment** and not think that a change is required **for true service to our Creator.**
- As John Calvin comments, Paul "has it simply in view to **correct that inconsiderate eagerness,** which prompts some to change their condition **without any proper reason,** whether they do it from superstition, **or from any other motive."**
- So some people work their whole lives in one vocation, while others may experience a change of call during their lifetimes.
- The important thing to remember is that wherever we labor, **we can labor for the glory of God** and the **good of our neighbors.**
- If you are experiencing discontent in your work, ask the Lord to show you how your work can be used for His glory and the good of others.



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○ **APPLICATION:**

One question I have often asked of people who have worked for me over the years is this: How much time do you spend mentally complaining?

- Is complaining your second job?
- Is grumbling your hobby?
- Has all the mental complaining got you anywhere?
- If this is you, my suggestion is to take some time to write down all those things you're grumbling about to get them out of your head.
 - Pray over them and ask the Lord for his guidance and wisdom.
 - Where are you being obstinate, and where are you being called to submit, and?
 - Where are you holding onto a grudge, and where are you being called to forgive?
 - How can you most glorify God through you way you handle the challenges in your work?

2. The Christian Worker is well-pleasing

a. Titus 2:9-10

⁹Bondservants ... are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith...

- a. I'm sure when you think over your life, whether you work in an office, a factory, in sales, or at home – you probably know that one person who complained about **everything**. Every request, every task, every condition.
- b. This person's outlook on work is that they, themselves, **were to be served**.
- c. Or maybe **you are this person**, and you find yourself **chafing** under submission to the authorities in your life?
- d. We often find ourselves separating our work **from our life with God**.



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- e. Scripture, on the other hand, tells us that work is a **good gift from God**.
- f. And your **relationship with Christ** should put your focus primarily on heaven, not on this world.
- g. It is given by the Lord in order to help us have meaning in our lives, to assist us in personal growth, and to be an avenue through which we can love our neighbors.
- h. By laboring, **whether your work is mental, physical or both**, producing goods or providing services that others need and want, we are actually loving those around us.
- i. Ephesians 6:5-8
 - i. ⁵ *Bondservants,^[a] obey your earthly masters^[b] with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.*
- j. The fundamental truth Paul highlights here in Ephesians 6:5-8 is that we serve our earthly supervisors **with an eye to the Lord**.
- k. We are servants of Christ before all else (v. 6), and key to serving Jesus well **is doing the will of those in authority over us, as far as that will does not violate God's law, of course.**



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- l.** As we read in **Romans 13:1-7**, our Creator rules His creation through delegated authorities:

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

- m.** Simply put, **we cannot claim to be Christ's servants** if we do not heed **those whom God has put over us.**
- n.** Such obedience must be rendered with respect, **not begrudging contempt.**
- o.** And we can have confidence in knowing that the good we do **we will receive back from the Lord.**
- p.** What this means is that in those times where we feel un-appreciated, overlooked, or cast aside, if we have been **seeking to do the Will of God from our hearts**, then He has indeed seen and knows of our works, and we will receive that good back from the Lord.
- q. APPLICATION:**
My question for you is this: are you well-pleasing in your work?
i. My charge for you is to look at the way you interact with the authorities above you as filtered through our verse in Titus:



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1. Are you argumentative or are you thoughtful and considerate?
2. Are you pilfering or do give fully of yourself without ill gain?
3. Are you showing good faith in the way you labor?
4. If the answer to any of these is contrary to God's word, you need to repent and take action to correct your behavior.

3. The Christian Worker Points to Jesus

a. Titus 2:9-10

So that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

- b. Your relationship with Christ is the primary thing in life, and so here comes the hard truth that we sometimes fail to recognize:

It's not about you! It's. Not. About. You.

- c. When we are out in the world **believers are first and foremost Jesus' Doulos** – his bondservant, his slave. He bought us with is blood.
- d. In Romans 12:2, Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
- e. Instead of being conformed, **Paul instructs us to be transformed.**
- f. We are Bonded by the blood, called to higher purpose, to live a life glorifying God in our words, our deeds, and our attitudes.
- g. Our lives are lives of Submission to God.
- h. God's image in every person is the moral and ethical foundation for every commandment that governs how we ought to live our lives and to treat our fellow humans.



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- i. Life is all about relationships.
- j. Our greatest joys and sorrows come because of relationships.
- k. A significant part of what it means for us to be created in the image of God is to be relational.
- l. God Himself is a relational being. Not only does He relate personally to us as His image-bearers, He also has enjoyed perfect relational harmony as Father, Son, and Spirit from all eternity.
- m. In order for us to live as we ought, **we must have our relationships properly ordered.** This means that we must relate to the right things in the right way.
- n. God has not left us to figure out on our own how to do this. He has spoken very simply and clearly about the essence and priority of all human relationships. Jesus explained it best when answering a question from a lawyer who asked, “Which is the great commandment in the Law?”
- o. Matthew 22:37-40
[37] And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** [38] This is the great and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** [40] On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (ESV)
- p. If you’re a believer, your conformation to Christ’s likeness is gradually being accomplished **even now** by the process of **your sanctification.**
- q. In the meantime, Jesus taught that **one of the best ways to be like God** is to love your neighbor -- even your enemies.
- r. Not only do they bear God’s image, but more to Jesus’ point, **loving them is the best way for us to be like God**, because God Himself loves even those who hate Him.



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- s. When we read in our verse in Titus today,
"So that in everything they may **adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.**"
 - This is that doctrine.
 - This is how we are set apart.
 - This is how we Glorify God in our daily life
 - They will know us **by our love.**
- t. All of this, of course, shows how completely dependent we are on the **grace** of Jesus Christ.
- u. We cannot **love God supremely** or **people sincerely** apart from **His love first** reaching us through the power of the Gospel.
- v. **Only as we are so loved** will we be **set free to love in return.**
- w. **APPLICATION**
As we apply this word in our life, my question for you is this:
 - Where is the love? How can you ensure that the Word of God not be reviled?

In closing, I want to reinforce one thought: **being a bondservant of Christ is not a life of drudgery.**

- After all, his "burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).
- And we also have this promise in Romans 6:22:
"Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God,
the benefit you reap leads to holiness, **and the result is eternal life**"
- Let me tell you, a reward doesn't get better than that.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

Hebrews 13:20-21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.